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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

1949

POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. Outram, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1949


together with

THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., M.S.I.A.)



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Wyllyotts Manor,
Darkes Lane,
Potters Bar.

31st August, 1950

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I append herewith my Report on the health of the district for the year 1949.

Vital statistics shew little change. There has been a slight fall in the birth rate, but the death rate is about the same as last year, although that for England and Wales shews an increase from 10.8 to 11.7. The Infantile Mortality rate for the district has increased but is still excellent, and at 15.9 compares very favourably with that of 32.0 for the country as a whole.

During the year there was a considerable increase in the total number of Infectious Disease notifications, but this was entirely due to the increased incidence of Measles. There were very few other cases of Infectious Disease. Scarlet Fever notifications were very low ; there was only one case of Poliomyelitis, and again not a single case of Diphtheria occurred.

Reference to Mr. Rooley's report will show once more the wide scope of duties undertaken by the Department, and much useful work, particularly in the fields of Food Hygiene and Housing, has been accomplished during the year. I would draw attention to the rather novel way of presenting the evidence of housing progress during the last 5 years.

Once again my thanks are due to Mr. Rooley for his able assistance to me, and his continuous labours in the interests of Public Health in this area. Also I would extend my thanks to Mr. Rixson, and all members of the Public Health staff, for their work throughout the year, which has been carried out to my entire satisfaction.

Your obedient servant,

M. I. OUTRAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	6,219 acres
Population (mid 1949) Civilian	16,510
Total	16,540
Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1949)	5,006
Rateable Value (31st March, 1950)	£168,364
Estimated product of a penny rate (31st March, 1950)	£665

Vital Statistics

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	15.3
Birth-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales	16.7
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	7.8
Death-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales	11.7
Still Births per 1,000 total births (live and still)	11.8

Infantile Mortality (deaths of infants under one year of age)

Death-rate per 1,000 live births	15.9
Death-rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	32

Births

	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	133	111	244	2	1	3
Illegitimate	8	0	8	0	0	0
TOTAL	141	111	252	2	1	3

Deaths—Causes

	Male	Female	Total
Measles	1	0	1
Diabetes	0	1	1
Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	1	2	3
Tuberculosis—other forms	0	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	2
Cancer—all forms	9	18	27
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	6	13
Heart Diseases	20	14	34
Other diseases of Circulatory System	3	3	6
Bronchitis	5	0	5
Pneumonia	5	3	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	1	5
Digestive diseases	3	2	5

Deaths—Causes, (continued)	Male	Female	Total
Nephritis	1	2	3
Birth injuries, premature birth, etc. . .	2	0	2
Suicide	2	1	3
Other violent causes	0	1	1
All other causes	3	3	6
Road Traffic Accidents	2	0	2
Totals	69	59	128

Note.—No deaths occurred from Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Cerebro-spinal Fever, Acute Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health ..	M. I. Outram, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector ..	J. H. Rooley, M.R.San.I., etc.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	H. E. Tolman, A.R.San.I., until 18-2-49. R. W. Rixson, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., from 16-5-49.

(a) Laboratory Facilities

As in recent years, all laboratory work of the Council was dealt with at one of the E.M.S. laboratories. Among the specimens examined were milk samples, water samples, ice-cream, throat swabs, suspected foods, etc.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

This service was operated entirely by the Middlesex County Council. The vehicles normally serving this area are stationed at the Fire & Ambulance Station, Mutton Lane.

(c) Nursing in the Home

Nurse Flower, of 269 Mutton Lane; Nurse Palmer, of 1 Frowyke Crescent, South Mimms; Nurses Egles and Price, of 255 Mutton Lane, and Nurse Acason, St. Andrews, Oakmere Lane, were registered as practising nurses and midwives.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

There are two clinics—one at the Village Hall, High Street, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Mutton Lane. Both these centres are under the control of the area Health Committee

and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare and dental services.

(e) Hospitals

There are three hospitals within the district—the Pawling Home for children at Kitts End, the Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, and the Clare Hall Sanatorium at South Mimms. They are controlled by the North-West Metropolitan Group Management Committee.

Cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are normally sent to Coppetts Road Isolation Hospital.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The district is supplied by the Barnet District Water Company and samples of the water are submitted regularly for examination to independent analysts. Results of these were highly satisfactory, and in addition the Company's Chemist and Bacteriologist reported that he examined 1,482 samples during the year. Of these 1,457 were found to be free from B.Coli in 100 m.l. This gives a purity figure of 98.3%.

The water supplied does not set up any plumbo-solvency action.

During the year two more cottages were connected to the mains, and for the first time it is possible to say that **all** dwelling houses in the district are now supplied with a piped water supply.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council reports that :

“ The soil and surface water sewerage systems in the district have proved satisfactory during the year. No incidents of flooding other than of a minor nature have occurred, due mainly to further improvements carried out and the careful maintenance of the surface water drainage system in certain areas. Both the Potters Bar and South Mimms Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily in spite of increased flow due to housing development.”

Public Cleansing

The Engineer and Surveyor reports :

“ The extended scheme effected during 1948 by the establishment of a weekly collection of salvage and refuse from the main business and shopping areas was continued. Within the terms of the existing contract, the refuse and salvage collections have been satisfactory, but the collection of salvage was discontinued in October, because of difficulties in disposing of the salvaged materials.

The scheme for kitchen waste collection, as revised in 1948 for an experimental period, has been extended throughout the year and is operating reasonably satisfactorily."

Factories Act, 1937

In accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, particulars of factories and action taken under the Act have been forwarded to the Minister of Labour and National Service. Extracts from the report are :

(a) Inspections

118 inspections were made in respect of the 52 premises subject to the provisions of the Act. In one case it was found that the sanitary accommodation provided was insufficient, but after service of notice sufficient additional accommodation was supplied.

In 1948, 61 premises were subject to the provisions of the Factories Act.

(b) Outworkers

39 premises where homework was carried on were notified in Employers' Lists. Inspections were carried out and found to be satisfactory.

The number of premises again showed a reduction from 1948, when 103 were notified.

Section D

Housing

(See Page 11 of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

Section E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See Page 18 of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis during the year 1949 were :

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	8	0
Whooping Cough	43	0	0
Measles	278	3	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
TOTALS	336	12	1

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Diphtheria, Lobar Pneumonia, Puerperal Pyrexia, Enteric Fever, Dysentery or Cerebro-spinal Fever occurred.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This service is now carried out by the staff of the Area Medical Officer of Health although the staff of this Council's Public Health Department assists at special clinics, twelve of which were held during the year. Separate figures as previously given are not now available for the district, but there is no doubt that the percentage of children who have completed a course of immunisation remains very high. During the last 8 years only one case of Diphtheria has been reported in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1
25-35	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
over 65	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals 1949	7	8	1	1	1	1	1	1
1948	10	8	1	—	4	1	—	—

The numbers of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the commencement and end of the year are shewn in the following table, as the above gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	52	61	113	10	7	17	130
Total on register at end of year	57	61	118	9	6	15	133

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES — 1949

Diseases	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	Over 65	Total 1949	Total 1948
Scarlet Fever	4	5	2	-	-	11	17
Whooping Cough	19	20	4	-	-	43	57
Measles	106	167	5	-	-	278	108
Lobar Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	-	1	2	-	3	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	129	193	12	2	-	336	198

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my eighth Annual Report. As will be seen from the following pages, it has been possible on this occasion to give a more detailed picture of the work of the Department and it is hoped that the additional information will prove of interest.

In spite of changes in staff which occurred early in the year, I think it is true to say that more attention has been given to the essential work of public health than in previous years. Through the activities of the Potters Bar Hygienic Food Traders' Guild and by means of a regular programme of routine inspections, which have given opportunities for a close contact with the traders, a considerable advance in the standards of the food premises has been made. A regular programme of Ice Cream sampling was maintained throughout the year and the results have been shewn in some detail. In view of its increasing popularity as a food and its suitability as a medium for carrying pathogenic organisms, ice cream must continue to receive the utmost attention from the time of its manufacture until consumed.

Some progress was also seen in housing. Although it is five years since my original report on South Mimms was prepared, it is gratifying to note that implementation of some of my recommendations has now been effected, and it is hoped that further progress will be made in the coming years—particularly in the complete repair and/or reconditioning of those properties which have many years of useful life in their basic structures. The provisions of the Housing Act 1949 may prove of help to property owners, although, at the time of writing, few landlords seem to be aware of the facilities offered.

Although Potters Bar is so near London large areas of the district are rural in character and contain several isolated groups of cottages. It is very pleasing to report, therefore, that for the first time every inhabited house in the district is now supplied with a piped water supply. During the last 6 years about 40 houses have been connected to the mains, and as this has usually involved the provision of water closets, drainage systems and septic tank disposal plants, some improvement in the sanitation of the outlying cottages can be claimed.

The work of rehousing reached its peak during 1949 and it is anticipated that the number of lettings in future years will be reduced. During the years 1946-1949 (inclusive) a total of 453 lettings was made.

In conclusion I would like to join the Medical Officer of Health in thanking all members of the Department for their efficient and cheerful help through the year.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. ROOLEY.

HOUSING

At the end of the year the Dugdale Hill Estate of 172 houses was almost complete—only 17 houses being unfinished. At South Mimms, 22 of the 32 houses in Frowyke Crescent, Blanche Lane and Brookside had been completed and occupied. During the year 110 new Council houses were occupied and 59 other changes of tenancy occurred. Most of the latter arose from the continued policy of transferring growing families from smaller properties to the larger houses. Two additional Halfway Houses were established—one at Darkes Lodge with accommodation for 6 families, and one at the old W.L.A. Hostel in Sherwood Avenue for 9 families. Adaptation work had commenced on a fourth Halfway House at the Agricultural Camp in The Walk and this, when completed, will provide for 5 families. In all 19 families have been housed during the year at the Halfway Houses, many of these being from other districts where the Authority was without emergency accommodation.

Although some reduction in the waiting list was achieved by the revision carried out in 1948, new applications continued to arrive at a quicker rate than accommodation was provided, and at December 31st the number of outstanding applicants was approximately 580.

Early in the year the Council considered ways of controlling sub-letting in Council houses, and a scheme was prepared under which tenants obtaining permission to sublet or take in lodgers pay 2/6d. per week additional to the rent. Between 90 and 100 such cases have been authorised.

South Mimms

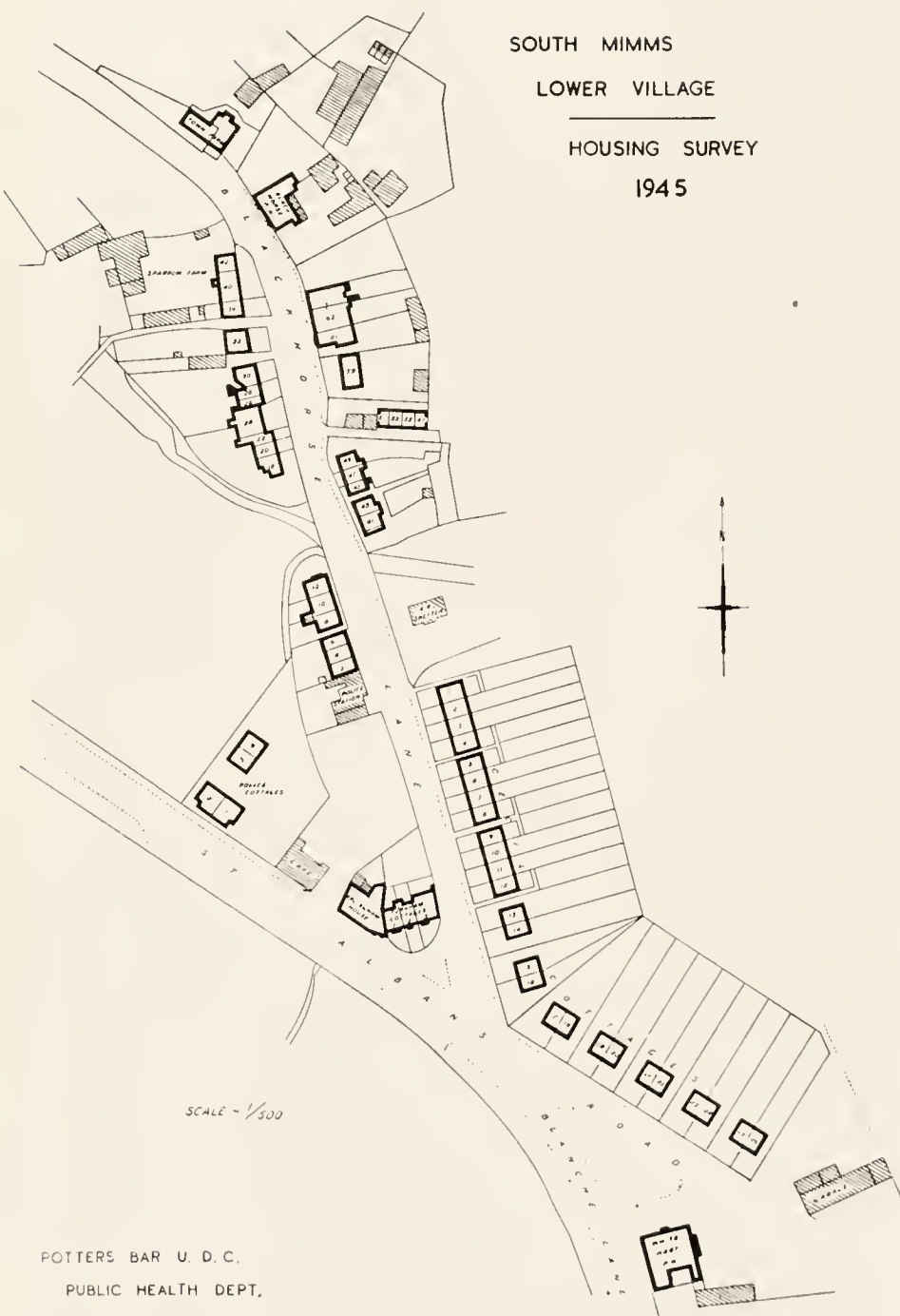
It may be remembered that in 1945 a Report on Housing conditions in South Mimms was submitted to the Council. In that report properties were classified according to the action recommended. It is pleasing to note that during 1949 it was found possible to carry out some of the recommendations made. Three cottages—30 Blackhorse Lane and 64, 66 Blanche Lane were demolished: demolition orders were made in respect of 14, 16, 18 Blanche Lane: the owner of 1, 2, 3 Turnham Cottages had promised to demolish as soon as the tenants were rehoused and it is expected this will occur in early 1950: the Council purchased five cottages, three of which, 18, 20, 22 Blackhorse Lane are to be reconditioned and re-let and two, 92 and 94 Blanche Lane, are to be demolished. In addition, schedules of repair under Section 9 of the Housing Act have been carried out at 4 properties. This programme, though admittedly modest, when added to the provision of 32 new permanent houses at Frowyke Crescent and Brookside and 30 prefabs at Brookside, is surely an indication that the problems of South Mimms have not been ignored by the Council. Plans of South Mimms—Lower and Upper Villages—are shewn in the following pages and details of the changes since 1945 are apparent. Dwelling houses in each case are shewn heavily outlined in black.

SOUTH MIMMS

LOWER VILLAGE

HOUSING SURVEY

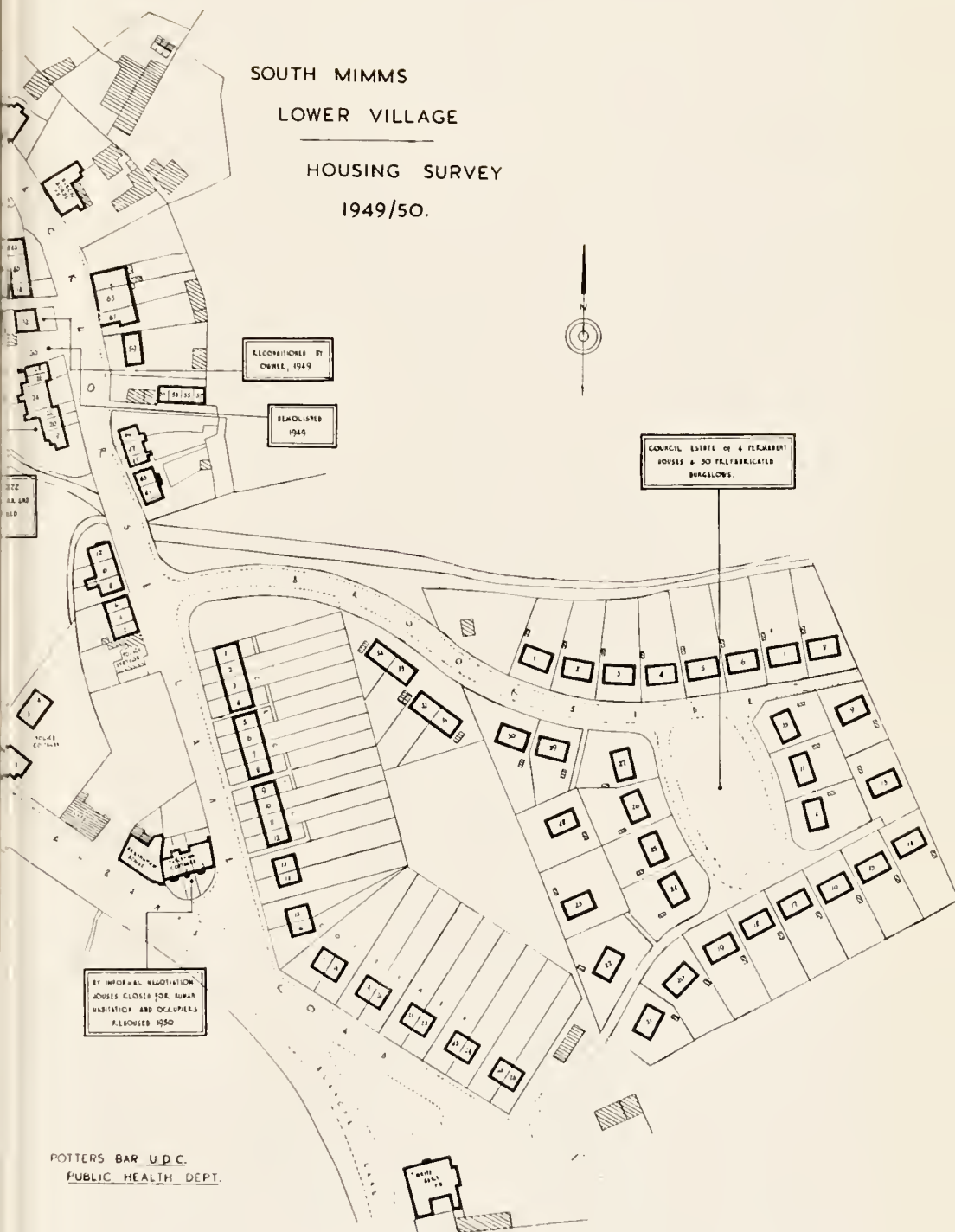
1945



POTTERS BAR U. D. C.
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

SOUTH MIMMS
LOWER VILLAGE

HOUSING SURVEY
1949/50.

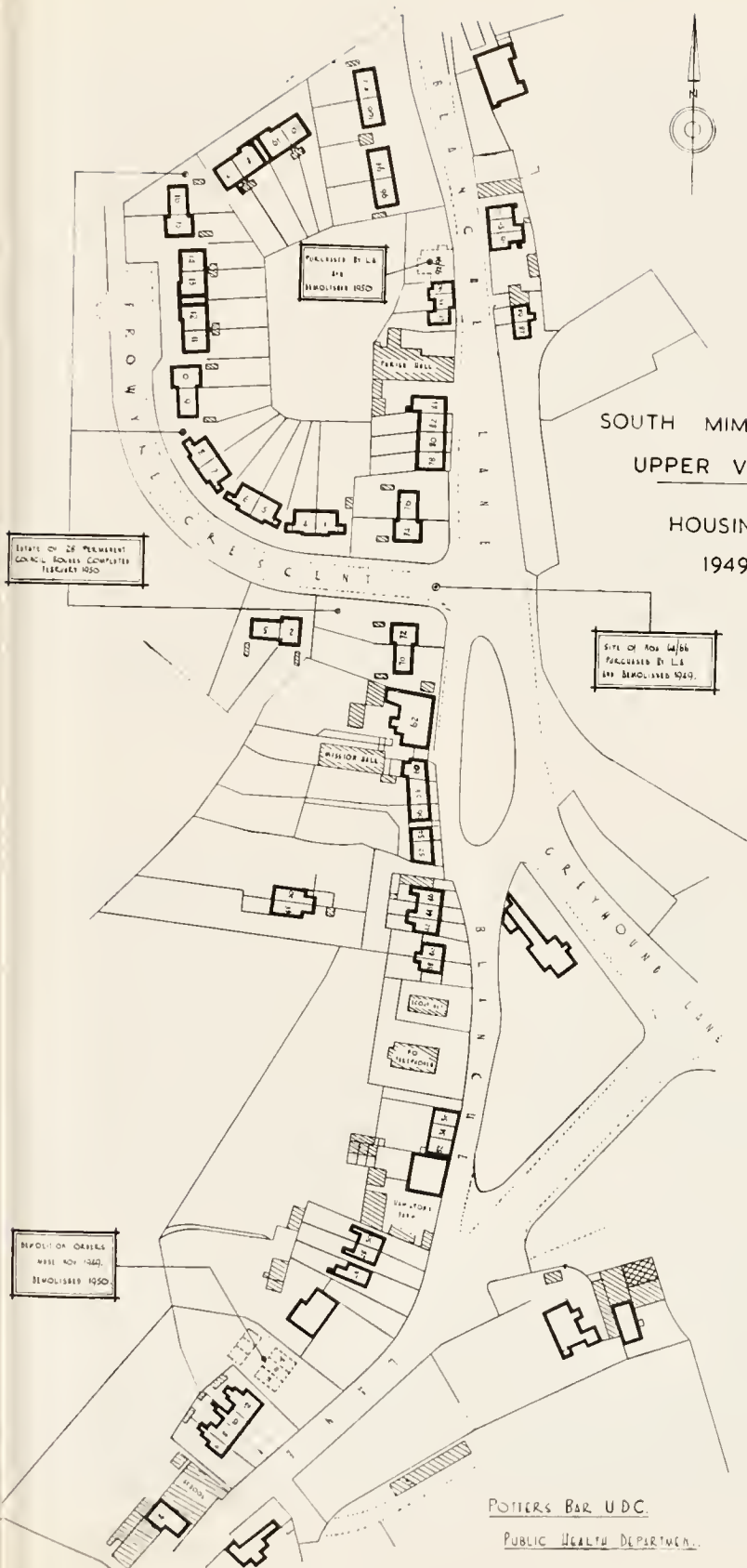


POTTERS BAR U.D.C.
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.



SOUTH MIMMS
UPPER VILLAGE
HOUSING SURVEY
1945.





SOUTH MIMMS
UPPER VILLAGE.

HOUSING SURVEY
1949/50.

POST-WAR HOUSING



Block of 4 "F" type Houses at Updale Close, Dugdale Hill (3 with two bedrooms and 1 with three bedrooms)



Photos : J. H. Rooley

Block of 4 "C" type Houses at Shillitoe Avenue, Dugdale Hill (2 with three bedrooms and 2 with four bedrooms). Similar blocks are at Frowyke Crescent, South Mimms

POST-WAR HOUSING



Pair of "T" type Houses at Frowyke Crescent and Blanche Lane,
South Mimms. (Three-bedroom)



Photos : J. H. Rooley

"B" and "T" type Houses at Rushfield, Dugdale Hill (Three-bedroom)

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

October 1st, 1949, was the "appointed day" under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 for the transfer of various functions in connection with milk production from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. From that date responsibility for these duties at the 20 farms in Potters Bar passed from the Urban District Council to the Middlesex Agricultural Executive Committee, to whom were delegated the duties under the '44 Act. Licensing arrangements for the production of designated milks, previously in the hands of the Middlesex County Council, also went to the Agricultural Executive Committee, and the Urban District Council is now left with licensing of distributors and the enforcement of the several Regulations at premises other than farms. New Regulations for the control of conditions at farms, dairies, and relating to the production and distribution of designated milks, were issued in 1949.

Under the new Regulations there are 8 Supplementary and 9 Dealers' licences in force in the district in respect of the sale of designated milks. "Sterilised" milk is now regarded as a "Special Designation."

Of the 20 milk farms in the district, six are licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk, and six for Accredited. Until October the usual sampling programme at farms and from retailers was carried out, but from October 1st samples were taken from distributors only. Results are shown in the table below.

At one farm a scheme of redrainage, involving connection to the public sewer, was carried out, and at other farms schemes for drainage reconstruction and improvement of disposal arrangements are in preparation.

	Routine			Repeat			Totals		
	Sat.	Unsat	Total	Sat.	Unsat	Total	Sat.	Unsat	Total
Designated Producers	28	3	31	1	0	1	29	3	32
Non-designated Producers	7	7	14	4	2	6	11	9	20
Retailers Before Oct. 1st	11	0	11	0	0	0	11	0	11
After Oct. 1st	25	0	25	0	0	0	25	0	25
TOTALS	71	10	81	5	2	7	76	12	88

Percentage of Routine Samples Unsatisfactory

1949	..	12.3%
1948	..	21.7%
1947	..	12.5%
1946	..	2.1%

(b) Meat and other Foods

During the year considerable progress was made in the drive for cleaner food handling.

Early in the year the Potters Bar Hygienic Food Traders' Guild, a Guild sponsored by the Urban District Council, was established, and continued the work of the existing Food Hygiene Committee which was formed during the closing months of 1948. The objects of this Guild were to promote the hygienic manufacture, distribution and handling of food in the district, to encourage the observance of all statutory standards of food hygiene, and to apply codes of good practice prepared by the local authority in conjunction with the various food trades. An Advisory Committee was elected consisting of 3 representatives of the Potters Bar Urban District Council, and representatives of each of the various food trades, factory canteen service, school meals service and trade employees. The Senior Sanitary Inspector was elected Hon. Secretary to this Advisory Committee.

Much of the early work of the Committee was concerned with administrative and constitutional details, and the preparation of codes of practice, and when this groundwork was completed towards the middle of the year, all food traders in the district were provided with the relevant codes of practice and application forms for membership of the Guild. As application forms were received the premises equipment and food preparation processes were inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and a report and recommendations submitted to the Advisory Committee. In favourable cases the traders were issued with Membership Certificates. Employees were also invited to join the Guild and suitable applicants were provided with membership badges.

At the end of the year 38 applications had been received from traders, of which 27 were granted membership certificates, and 35 applications had been received from employees, all of which were accepted and issued with badges.

The total number of food establishments in the district, including 12 licensed victuallers and 3 large works' canteens, but excluding the school meals service, was 105.

In addition to the work in connection with the Potters Bar Hygienic Food Traders' Guild, the routine inspection of food establishments continued, and, excluding inspections of dairies and cowsheds shewn in another part of the report, 293 inspections and reinspections were carried out. As a result the following is a summary of improvements effected to food premises during the year :

	Number of Premises
Hot water supplies provided	13
Ventilation improved	2
Lighting improved	1
Floors repaired or renewed	2
Walls and ceilings repaired, refaced or redecorated ..	15
Sinks provided, renewed or repaired	4
Lobbies to Sanitary Conveniences ventilated	2
Preparation rooms cleansed	2
Miscellaneous repairs or improvements	8

Although it is possible to exercise close supervision over the structure and cleanliness of premises and equipment, the more important aspect of the prevention of food poisoning and other food-borne infections, i.e. the personal habits and methods of those engaged in the food industry, cannot so readily be controlled.

Steps were taken, however, by personal contact with food handlers and by the distribution of propaganda and instructive leaflets and plaques, to stress the importance of personal cleanliness, hand washing, the care of septic abrasions of the skin, the proper use of handkerchiefs and the mode of preparation and protection of certain made-up foodstuffs.

It is also worth recording that in November, 1949, a food hygiene lecture/demonstration for all food traders was arranged and held in the buildings of a local modern school canteen. Talks were given on the dangers and causes of food-borne infections and on the hygienic handling of food, and those in attendance were given the opportunity of inspecting the premises and equipment of the school canteen, numerous prepared exhibits, charts, bacteriological plates, etc., on all aspects of food hygiene. This demonstration was well attended.

It is anticipated that during 1950 a full scale public exhibition on food hygiene will be staged.

It is gratifying to record that no outbreak of food poisoning was notified during the year.

(c) Ice-Cream

At the end of the year there were 3 premises registered for the manufacture and retail sale of ice-cream, and a further 28 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream. Of the 3 manufacturers, 2 used a "Heat-treated mix" and the other a "Complete cold mix," and of the 28 registered vendors only 22 were actively engaged in the handling of ice-cream.

Samples of ice-cream taken in the Urban District were submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale, and subjected to the prescribed Methylene Blue Test. This test places ice-cream into 4 grades of bacterial cleanliness as follows :

Time taken to reduce

Methylene Blue

Provisional Grade

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more	..	..	1	} Satisfactory
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —4 hours	..	..	2	
$\frac{1}{2}$ —2 hours	..	..	3	} Unsatisfactory
0 hours	..	..	4	

The Public Health Laboratory Service states that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological result of any one sample, but that judgement should be based on a series of samples, and suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

During the year 135 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for analysis.

From the following tables of results it will be seen that the ice-cream sold within the district was manufactured by 14 different manufacturers, 11 of whom were outside Potters Bar :

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF ICE-CREAM SAMPLES TAKEN SHEWING VENDORS AND MANUFACTURERS

Vendor	Manufacturer	Methylene Blue Test				Totals
		Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	
1	A	3	2	—	—	5
2	{ C	—	4	1	6	11
	{ D	—	2	1	—	3
3	{ A	1	—	—	—	1
	{ D	2	2	1	—	5
4	D	1	5	1	2	9
5	A	3	1	—	—	4
	{ A	1	1	—	—	2
6	{ E	—	1	2	—	3
	{ F	—	—	1	1	2
7	X	1	—	—	1	2
8	{ A	—	2	—	—	2
	{ C	—	6	—	5	11
9	A	1	—	—	—	1
10	{ A	1	—	—	—	1
	{ K	—	—	—	1	1
11	{ B	1	—	2	—	3
	{ J	3	1	—	1	5
	{ A	1	2	—	—	3
12	{ D	1	—	1	1	3
	{ F	—	2	—	1	3
13	B	—	5	—	—	5
14	{ G	—	1	—	—	1
	{ E	1	2	—	—	3
15	H	—	2	2	3	7
16	I	—	3	5	3	11
17	X	3	4	3	1	11
18	Y	4	3	—	—	7
19	Z	5	2	3	—	10
		33	53	23	26	135

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES TAKEN SHEWING MANUFACTURERS ONLY

Manufacturer	Methylene Blue Test				Totals
	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	
Local Manufacturers					
X	4	4	3	2	13
Y	4	3	—	—	7
Z	5	2	3	—	10
	13	9	6	2	30
Non-Local Manufacturers					
A	11	8	—	—	19
B	1	5	2	—	8
C	—	10	1	11	22
D	4	9	4	3	20
E	1	3	2	—	6
F	—	2	1	2	5
G	—	1	—	—	1
H	—	2	2	3	7
I	—	3	5	3	11
J	3	1	—	1	5
K	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	33	53	23	26	135

Percentage Results

All manufacturers			Local manufacturers only		
Grade 1	..	24%	Grade 1	..	43%
Grade 1 & 2	..	64%	Grade 1 & 2	..	73%
Grade 3	..	17%	Grade 3	..	20%
Grade 4	..	19%	Grade 4	..	6.6%

NOTES

Experience during 1949 has shewn the value of the methylene blue test in revealing unsatisfactory methods of manufacture and/or handling and storage of ice-cream.

Of the unsatisfactory samples taken from local manufacturers it was found that in the case of X one sample of Grade 4 was taken from another vendor, and the other 4 unsatisfactory samples were taken at the close of the summer season when the demand was small, and it was found that technical defects in the methods of manufacture arising out of this lack of demand were the cause. Since advice was given subsequent samples were placed in Grade 1.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples taken from Z it was found that a so-called " Complete cold mix " was not being manufactured in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. When this matter was brought to the atten-

tion of the manufacturer the practice ceased forthwith. Subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

Where the unsatisfactory samples were found to be manufactured outside the area, repeat and check samples were taken in an effort to identify the possible source of contamination. This procedure brought about an increase in the number of unsatisfactory samples, particularly from certain manufacturers, but was found to be necessary in order to assist in the determination of the place and cause of the contamination. As a result of this procedure the local authorities concerned with the supervision of manufacture of 4 non-local producers were informed and asked to co-operate. In most cases an improvement was shewn in subsequent samples.

(d) Unsound Food

The table below shews the food which was examined and found to be unfit during the year.

UNSOUND FOOD—1949

Tinned Vegetables and Fruit ..	77 tins
Tinned Milk	77 tins
Tinned Meat and Fish	54 tins
Jams and Preserves	12 tins
Dried Egg	2 tins
Cooking Fat	15½ lbs.
Dried Milk	1 cwt.
Cheese	57¼ lbs.
Sweets	15¾ lbs.
Bacon	17¾ lbs.
Corned Beef	108 lbs.
Raw Fish	21 st. 12 lbs.
Sausage Meat	8 lbs.
Butchers' Meat—Imported Lamb	2¼ lbs.
Butchers' Meat—Imported Beef	12½ lbs.

RODENT CONTROL, 1949

Below is a summary of the work carried out during the year :

Number of complaints received and investigated	64
Number of surveys and inspections carried out :	
(a) by Sanitary Officer	192
(b) by Rodent Operative	332
Number of premises affected	70
Number of premises inspected and found to be not infested	25
Number of premises where disinfestation carried out by occupiers	11
Number of premises where disinfestation carried out by Public Health Department (including Council property)	59

DISINFECTIONS

Disinfection of premises and effects following cases of infectious disease was carried out as under :

After Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	11
After Measles	..	..	..	1
After Tuberculosis	..	..	..	3
After Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	4

In addition 8 schools were disinfected as a precautionary measure against poliomyelitis.

Disinfestations

No fumigation for bug-infestation was carried out but 8 premises were dealt with following severe infestations of flies, ants or wood-worm. Fifteen wasp nests were also destroyed.

OTHER SERVICES

Vitamins for Children

The Public Health Department continued to act as a distributing centre for fruit juices, vitamins, etc. The distribution of supplies to other centres from bulk stores is also carried out by the Department.

TABLE OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts	..	1,070
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts	.. ..	141
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act	..	640
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act and Petroleum Acts	.. .. ..	143
Shops Acts inspections	.. .. ..	110
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases	.. ..	33
Inspections and visits re Rodent Control	.. ..	192
Administrative visits	.. .. ..	384
Rehousing visits, etc.	.. .. ..	263
Total visits and inspections		2,976

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR 1949

Water Supply and Fittings	Number of premises
Piped main supplies provided for the first time	2
Services repaired, renewed or improved	3
Storage cisterns repaired, renewed, cleansed or covered	1

Drainage	Number of Premises
Existing premises connected to L.A. sewers for the first time	6
Existing premises provided with water-carriage drainage systems to septic tanks and filters	2
Drains relaid, repaired or improved	18
Drains unstopped	9
Eaves, gutters and down pipes repaired, renewed or unstopped	7
Sinks repaired or renewed	1
Miscellaneous repairs or improvements	7
Sanitary Conveniences	
New W.C's provided or substituted for earth closets ..	2
W.C's repaired or renewed	7
Flushing cisterns and/or flushpipes repaired or renewed	4
Ventilation improved	1
Cleanliness improved	2
Chemical closets provided	1
Miscellaneous Repairs or Improvements	
Roofs repaired or renewed	7
Damp-proof courses provided	3
Underfloor ventilation, provided or improved	3
External brickwork repaired, rendered, pointed, etc. ..	4
Yard paving repaired or renewed	2
Baths provided	1
Windows repaired or renewed	6
Floors repaired or renewed	5
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed	11
Stoves, ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ..	6
Domestic food stores provided	3
Washing coppers provided or repaired	2
Staircase handrails provided	1
Lighting and ventilation provided or improved	2
Dustbins provided or renewed	54
Nuisances from keeping of animals remedied	1
Offensive accumulations removed or rendered innocuous	9
Sundry repairs and improvements	11
Food Premises	
Hot water supplies provided	13
Ventilation improved	2
Lighting improved	1
Floors repaired or renewed	2
Walls and ceilings repaired, refaced or redecorated ..	15
Sinks provided, renewed or repaired	4
Lobbies to Sanitary Conveniences ventilated	2
Preparation rooms cleansed	2
Miscellaneous repairs or improvements	8

DETAILS OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL ACTION

Number of premises in respect of which Informal Notices were served	113
Number of premises where improvements were effected following service of Informal Notices	111
Number of premises in respect of which Statutory Notices were served	—

NOTES



